

TIMES AND TRAILS

People, Projects and Priorities at Environment and Conservation

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April 2006

In Vision

Environment and Conservation Employees:

I was pleased to participate in the Nashville Earth Day Festival this past weekend. Thousands of people came out to Centennial Park on Saturday to enjoy a beautiful day, hear good music and learn about the challenges facing our shared environment. Our department was well represented as staff from Water Pollution Control, Natural Heritage and the Office of Environmental Assistance hosted some of the most popular exhibits at the festival. It was good to look around the park and see all the different booths demonstrating how we can take action for a cleaner

environment at home, in the classroom or while we're at work.

I want to thank everyone from the department who participated in Earth Day activities across Tennessee. As a parks professional for over 40 years, I have been fortunate to have a job where every day is Earth Day. I know that every day is Earth Day for many of you too. That is why I appreciate so many department staff being willing to celebrate Earth Day with millions of others across the nation. This is a date where we take advantage of broader public interest in protecting our land, air and water while putting issues like habitat protection and pollution prevention front and center – visible for all to see.

I am grateful for what you do every day to raise public awareness about our natural world and the stewardship responsibility we all have for its care.

Jim



Water Pollution Control Director Paul Davis demonstrates the partnership spirit by staffing the Cumberland River Compact booth at the Nashville Earth Day Festival.



One of the popular exhibits at Nashville's festival was Water Pollution Control's hands-on experience with creek critters. Children of all ages enjoyed seeing bugs from Whites Creek up close while listening to WPC staff Jimmy Smith, Annie Goodhue and Rich Cochran.



Commissioner Fyke congratulates event organizers and shares a message with the crowd about our need for a clean environment at the Nashville Earth Day Festival.



Donovan Grimwood, Sharon Goodwin-Walker, Commissioner Fyke and Harold Madison in the department's Office of Environmental Assistance tent at the Nashville Earth Day Festival.

Department Responds to Devastating Tornadoes Across Tennessee

April has brought more than gentle showers to Tennessee. First, it was the F-3 level tornadoes that struck Dyer and Gibson Counties in West Tennessee on April 2. Rudy Collins and his team at our Jackson Environmental Field Office were on the job the very next day to help those communities identify acceptable sites and methods to burn debris created by that natural disaster.

Less than a week later, a series of tornadoes touched down in Middle Tennessee on Friday, April 7. The next day the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) activated our department's Emergency Services Coordinators (ESCs) to assist the affected counties. ESC responders included the department's Emergency Services Coordinator Nick Fielder, Robert Brawner of Air Pollution Control (APC), Roger Donovan and Daniel Roop of Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Jeff Bagwell of Water Supply (DWS).

Places like Goodlettsville in northern Davidson County and Gallatin in Sumner County were some of the hardest hit areas on April 7. The City of Gallatin's water department was on emergency power but never lost pressure as they supplied water to city customers. Sumner and Davidson Counties faced millions of yards of debris produced by the destructive tornadoes and needed to know how to dispose of the remnant damage created by those twisters. Within 48 hours following the tornado touch-downs, Nick Fielder and department staff from the Nashville Field Office, including Al Majors, Lennie Fottrell,



Division of Solid Waste Management staff inspect RASCO quarry for potential debris disposal. This county-owned quarry is being used as a temporary transfer station for tornado debris in area.



Debris removal underway at the Woodhaven subdivision in Gallatin (Sumner County).

Jerry Branham, Daniel Roop and Roger Donovan, inspected a potential disposal site at an abandoned rock quarry. They then met with the mayors of Sumner County and Hendersonville to develop a waste disposal strategy. In less than 72 hours, state and local officials had coordinated a waste handling and disposal plan in response to the widespread destruction.

Department officials also worked with state and local leaders to approve disposal sites for high impact areas in Cumberland and Warren Counties. Jimmie Lee Clark, Cookeville Environmental Field Office director, worked through the

weekend with Shawn Puckett, Air Pollution Control-Cookeville EFO, and Barry Atnip, Solid Waste Management-Cookeville EFO, to confirm tornado debris removal plans and disposal sites for these regions. "County emergency managers and state TEMA officials were very appreciative of the quick, professional response of our department's staff," said Nick Fielder "We were able to provide timely, practical help so communities could address some of their most pressing needs after the storm."

Office of General Council Spotlight: Firm, Fair Enforcement is the Goal

Department attorneys and staff have built a strong partnership network in order to provide effective enforcement of the 24 different Tennessee statutes that define environmental crime in our state. The department's enforcement capacity includes a trained investigator dedicated to the prosecution of environmental crimes plus Environmental Field Office staff who serve as expert and fact witnesses. Department attorneys and staff coordinate their enforcement activities with the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Criminal Investigation Division, the EPA Office of Inspector General and various other state and federal agencies.

Over the past year, the department has assisted in the prosecution of 22 individuals and businesses, most

of whom have multiple warrants or multi-count indictments. Ten of these defendants were convicted during that time, with the remainder facing ongoing prosecution. There are a number of other cases currently under investigation, and these cases have the potential to produce criminal charges against parties violating state or federal laws.

"We understand the important role our department plays in protecting the public trust," said General Counsel Joe Sanders. "We are committed to being fair and timely with any and all involved in enforcement activities. But more than just efficiency, our efforts should result in the achievement of our enforcement objectives: deterrence, better compliance and an improved environment for Tennessee."

Park Rangers In-service Takes to the Skies

Park Ranger In-service this year brought friends back together from college days. Flight nurses with Vanderbilt LifeFlight conducted teaching sessions as rangers and managers renewed their First Responder medical certification. Flight nurse Chris Rediker spent time with his former college roommate Ranger Chris Cole, Big Ridge State Park, while flight nurse Jonelle Ferguson talked over Tennessee Tech days with Ranger Sarah Nicley, also from Big Ridge. Sarah and Chris participated in the Vanderbilt ride-along program by taking an instructional flight aboard LifeFlight 4. During the first week of In-service, Ranger Lucinda Hamby, Norris Dam, and Ranger David England, Tims Ford, participated in the ride-along program.

Ranger In-service is mandatory training for all State Park Rangers and managers. Training is held annually and topics include first aid, natural and cultural resource management, policy and procedures updates, and law enforcement and firearms training.



Ranger Sarah Nicley with Vanderbilt LifeFlight flight nurse Jonelle Ferguson.



With their park badges just barely visible through the windows, Ranger David England in the cockpit and Ranger Lucinda Hamby in the rear of the helicopter prepare for lift off.



Rangers Chris Cole (second from left) and Sarah Nicley (center) share a laugh with Vanderbilt LifeFlight instructors.

Division of Geology Participates in 55th Annual Geological Society of America Southeast Section Meeting

The Division of Geology participated in the 55th Annual Geological Society of America (GSA) Southeast Section meeting on March 23-24 at the Marriott Hotel in Knoxville. Dr. Pete Lemiszki and Martin Kohl led a one day pre-meeting field trip on March 22 for twenty geologists from the U.S. Geological Survey, Kentucky Geological Survey, academia and industry. They prepared a 30-page guidebook for the field trip, which discussed the geology, mineral resources and geologic hazards in the Valley and Ridge province between Rogersville and Greenville.

In addition to the field trip, Pete Lemiszki, Martin Kohl, Barry Miller and Robert Price from the Knoxville Environmental Field Office gave two poster presentations and one talk describing the results of recent geologic mapping and how the division uses GPS and GIS technology to compile geologic maps for release to the public. Assistant State Geologist Mike Hoyal and geologists Albert Horton and Marvin Berwind from the Nashville central office were also present to staff the division's booth. This exhibit highlighted the progress of geologic mapping completed across the state, displayed a sampling of publications available for purchase and provided some free Public Information Series documents.

The annual GSA section meeting provides an opportunity for geologists across the southeast to present new research results, to discuss recent activities by state and federal geological surveys and to evaluate students for future recruiting potential.



Pete Lemiszki shows the quality of quartz crystals the group can expect to find on the last field trip stop of the day.



Martin Kohl describes the geology of the Town Knobs fault roadcut to field trip participants.

Geologists Bob Price (left) and Barry Miller pose in front of their poster presentation.



Standing at the Division of Geology exhibit booth, Pete Lemiszki points out the location of recently completed geologic mapping.



Left to right: Division geologists Albert Horton, Vanessa Bateman (TDOT), Mike Hoyal and Marvin Berwind enjoy the evening social hour.

Times and Trails

“Take Time Out for Health” Draws Crowd to Bicentennial Capitol Mall

Over 400 people participated in the department’s first “Take Time Out for Health” Fair at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park (BCMSP) on April 19. Department staff and other event partners hosted tables and sponsored activities that recognized April as Minority Health Month and promoted healthy lifestyles for all Tennesseans. “The good weather and variety of booths produced a great turnout,” said Bill Williams, Division of Human Resources. “From blood pressure checks to hands-on massage therapy, this event featured 31 exhibitors and offered a wide range of information on how to increase our personal well-being.”

Thanks go out to the many Environment and Conservation staff who contributed to a successful health fair, particularly planning leaders Faye Chiles of Human Resources and Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park Ranger Harry Hampton. We are also grateful for our supportive partners inside state government at Tourist Development, the Department of Health and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Participants were able to take away information and experiences from this event that will encourage them to pursue or maintain personal health for themselves and their families.



Alexna Evans and Rozelyn Fields from the Department of Health's Office of Minority Health share their literature and information with those attending the event.

People, Projects and Priorities



Radon program coordinator Amy Inabinet and Senior Director for Air Resources Tracy Carter take a break from distributing in-home radon test kits to participants.



Denise Destin of Gold's Gym, Faye Chiles of Human Resources and Richard Dutton of the Nashville Fire Department.



Crystal Austin, NCTMB (daughter of Beverly Austin in Human Resources) gives a relaxing chair massage to Barbie Galbreath of Fiscal Services during the Health Fair.

Judges Meet to Evaluate Record Number of Nominations for Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards

Thirty-four professionals from various public and private organizations assembled on April 17 to review more than 100 nominations for the 12 categories represented in the 2006 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards (GESA). This was the largest number of nominations the department has ever received. Drawing on their expertise, the judging panels evaluated nominations in the following categories: Agriculture/Forestry, Aquatic Resource Preservation, Building Green, Energy Leadership, Environmental Education, Green Schools, Greenway and Trails, Hazardous Waste Management, Lifetime Achievement, Natural Heritage Conservation and Pollution Prevention.

Judges evaluated the nominees against an established set of criteria in order to identify a highest score in each category. After the top entries are reviewed for current compliance status, the judges' recommendations will be presented to Commissioner Fyke. Winners of the 2006 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards will be announced in May, and a presentation ceremony is scheduled with Governor Bredesen for June 23 at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville. "These awards are one of the most important ways our department acknowledges and celebrates outstanding people, projects and environmental performance," said Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan. "We are particularly grateful to these judges for helping us recognize Tennesseans who go above and beyond to protect our state's outstanding natural resources."



John Fenderson, Forester with State Division of Forestry; Vaughn Cassidy, Environmental Coordinator at the Jackson Environmental Field Office; and Jim Nance, Department of Agriculture Water Resources section, review nominees in the Agriculture/Forestry category.

Commissioner Jim Fyke checks the notes of (l-r) Bob Richards, State Parks Greenways and Trails Coordinator and Jim Hammontree, PARTAS consultant with Recreation Education Services, while they review nominees in the Greenways and Trails category.



Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan joins the judging panel for the Environmental Education and Outreach category: Left to right: Teresa Culbreath, Department of Transportation Litter Grant coordinator; Tami Coleman, Department of Education Project CENTS coordinator; and Paula Mitchell, Environment and Conservation Household Hazardous Waste coordinator.



Dan Eager, Water Pollution Control Natural Resources section director; Carol Rehder of The Land Trust for Tennessee; and LinnAnn Welch, State Parks biologist, review nominations for the Natural Heritage Conservation category.



Fall Creek Falls State Park Hosts Land Navigation Class



Front row left to right: Luke Askins, Harry Hampton, Patrick Randall, Dale Mabry, Brent Measles, Matt Brown, Brandon Taylor. Back row left to right: Jacob Young, Brent Smith, Jason Ramsey, Lucinda Hamby, Mark Taylor, Jeremy Vaden, Chad Whitlock, Damon Graham, Allison Humble, Jason Maynard, Brad Hamby, Samantha Morouney, Eric Runkle.

Rangers from across the state completed a three day Global Positioning System (GPS)/Land Navigation class at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Map reading, compass use and GPS cross country exercises were just a few of the exercises conducted.



Left to right: Rangers Jacob Young, Brandon Taylor, Gary Patterson and Allison Humble check their GPS positioning.

Department Sponsors Car Care Night with Nashville Sounds



Department staff left to right: Paula Larson, Robert Wadley, Paula Mitchell and Christina Treglia provide used oil recycling and clean water information to attendees at the Nashville Sounds game on Car Care Night.



WaterWorks! program Director Karen Hargrove and Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan show the baseball Paul threw out as the first pitch before the Nashville Sounds vs. Omaha Royals game on Car Care Night.

TDEC staff will be providing information about the Used Oil Program at the following baseball games and motor sport events:

Baseball: May 20	West Tennessee Diamond Jaxx for "Harley Night" – Jackson, TN
Baseball: June 21	Elizabethton Twins for "Used Car Giveaway Night"– Elizabethton, TN
Baseball: June 22	Kingsport Mets – Kingsport, TN
Baseball: July 26 and 27	Johnson City Cardinals– Johnson City, TN
Baseball: July 30 and 31	Memphis Redbirds – Memphis, TN
Baseball: August 12	Chattanooga Lookouts for "Used Car Night" – Chattanooga, TN
Baseball: August 20	Tennessee Smokies for "NASCAR Night" – Kodak, TN
Motor Sports: July 15	Memphis Motorsports Park for "NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series O'Reilly 200" – Memphis, TN

Highlights of Tennessee State Natural Heritage Areas Week

Bone Cave State Natural Area

Rock Island State Park Ranger Danny McCullough led a three hour tour of Big Bone Cave on Tuesday, April 4. Participants included Brian Bowen, Natural Areas program manager and a camera crew from WKRN-Channel 2 News. Channel 2 News was filming segments for an hour-long special on out-of-the-way, interesting places in Tennessee that will air this summer.

Danny described the caves prehistoric importance and the finding of many bone artifacts that are now in museums. The group toured the old wooden vats where salt-peter was processed as a part of the mining operation that took place during the civil war. Getting to the vats involved a few tight squeezes along the mile and a half of tunnels and small rooms.

All the participants were very pleased and glad they came except maybe the cameraman, who lugged the heavy camera and equipment. It was a good caving and learning experience for all.



Danny McCullough introduces the group to the history of Bone Cave.

Big Bone Cave is a 400-acre natural area located in Warren County on the Eastern Highland Rim. It is named for the discovery of the bones of a giant ground sloth (*Megalonyx lacquetus* Harlan) in 1811. This skeleton, now on display at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, represents the only known specimen of a giant ground sloth with a complete pelvis. Also significant are the 1971 discoveries of the bones of an herbivore about the size of a bear and other mammals including a jaguar (*Panthera onca augusta*). The cave also has historical significance as a salt-peter mine during the War of 1812 and the Civil War, when as many as 300 miners extracted the nitrate. Big Bone Cave is also on the Department of Interior's Registry of National Natural Landmarks.

Savage Gulf State Natural Area



On Sunday, April 9 more than 35 people met at Savage Gulf State Natural Area for a wildflower hike. Mary Priestely, curator of the Sewanee Herbarium at The University of the South in Sewanee led the hike with Forrest Evans, Natural Areas stewardship ecologist. Professional botanists as well as casual wildflower observers enjoyed the showy springtime wildflower display that included trout lilies and a variety of trilliums.

For more information about these and other state natural areas please visit www.tdec.net/nh/.

Savage Gulf is a 15,590-acre natural area located in Grundy County. Carved like a giant crowfoot into the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau, it is one of Tennessee's most scenic wilderness areas. Its sheer sandstone cliffs and rugged canyons provide extraordinary views. A significant feature is Stone Door, a 10 foot wide by 100 foot deep crack, formed at the top of the escarpment into the gorge below. It looks like a giant door left ajar and was once used by Native Americans as a passageway. Savage Gulf is also on the Department of Interior's Registry of National Natural Landmarks. The natural area is a part of the South Cumberland Recreation Area.

Times and Trails

April Service Anniversaries

5 years

Samuel Barnett, II, APC, Knoxville EFO
Lori Gieson, GWP, Nashville EFO
Bradley Hamby, Hiwassee/Ocoee Rivers State Park
Shawn Hughes, Standing Stone State Park
Helen Hampton, Roan Mountain State Park
Greta Hurst, APC, Cookeville EFO
Robin Neese, Fall Creek Falls State Park
Tammy Johnson, Old Stone Fort State Park
Gerald Parish, Jr., RES, Central Office
Amelia Poe, APC, Chattanooga EFO
Christina Slaven, Pickett State Park
Brandon Taylor, Pickett State Park
Lucas Tucker, Edgar Evins State Park
Celeste Williams, ISD, Central Office

10 years

Wanda Hutchison, Big Ridge State Park
Tim Nichols, DFS, Central Office
Greg Riggs, APC, Central Office
Kathy Williams, Natchez Trace State Park

15 years

Melinda Nelson, GWP, Central Office

20 years

Lorie Gann, TSP, West TN Regional Office
Richard Halcomb, Cove Lake State Park
Barbara Thach, Paris Landing State Park
Arless Thompson, Fall Creek Falls State Park

25 Years

Philisa Bennett, TSP, Central Office
Donald Campbell, Harrison Bay State Park
Beverly Darnell, Admin, Jackson EFO

30 years

Joyce Dunlap, SWM, Central Office
Eric Flowers, APC, Central Office
Charlie Tate, TSP, Central Office

35 years

Harvey Williams, APC, Nashville EFO

It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little – do what you can. ~Sydney Smith

People, Projects and Priorities

Isaac Russell Recognized for 35 Years of Service

Isaac Russell, Groundwater Protection manager in the Knoxville Environmental Field Office, was recently honored with a plaque celebrating his 35 years of state service. Isaac is well-known and well-loved in the Knoxville EFO and throughout the department. Many of the people who work in the Knoxville office were hired by him – and almost all could tell wonderful “Isaac stories” about the positive impact he has made.

Congratulations Isaac on reaching this milestone service anniversary. Thank you for your numerous contributions to our department and your service to the people of Tennessee.



Cynthia Mabe-Johnson presents Isaac Russell, Groundwater Protection manager in the Knoxville EFO, with a plaque recognizing his 35 years of service to the State of Tennessee.

We're Moving.....

Effective immediately, the Jackson Environmental Field Office has a new address. The phone number remains the same.

Jackson Environmental Field Office
1625 Hollywood Drive
Jackson, Tennessee 38305

The Knoxville Environmental Field Office has a target date of June 16 to move into their new offices. The phone number will remain the same, but the new address will be:

Knoxville Environmental Field Office
3711 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, Tennessee 37921

17th Annual Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee (BRAT) is September 16-23

The arrival of Spring marks a great time to begin planning to participate in the 17th Annual Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee (BRAT). The seven-day ride begins on September 16 and features a loop through some of Tennessee's most beautiful landscapes.

Originating this year at Natchez Trace State Park and following the hilly landscapes of the Tennessee River, the ride will overnight at six Tennessee State Parks. The event will begin with check-in and a kick-off dinner at Natchez Trace State Park on September 16. Sunday will introduce riders to the route with a 50-mile ride to Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park. From there the group will ride 65 miles east of the Tennessee River, ending the day at Montgomery Bell State Park. Tuesday's route is the longest with an 80-mile ride down the beautiful Natchez Trace Parkway to David Crockett State Park in Lawrenceburg. Riders will leave David Crockett on Wednesday, traveling 75 miles to Pickwick Landing State Park. Spending two nights at Pickwick on the Tennessee River, riders may choose from optional 30, 50 or 100-mile loop rides on Thursday, including a route through Shiloh National Battlefield. Riders will travel 60 miles on Friday to Mousetail Landing State Park on the high bluffs of the Tennessee River. The spectacular journey concludes with a short ride back to Natchez Trace State Park on Saturday, September 23.

The 17th Annual Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee is sponsored by Tennessee State Parks, the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Cumberland Trail Conference. Part of the proceeds from this year's event will go directly to the Cumberland Trail Conference, a non-profit organization dedicated to the creation and preservation of Cumberland Trail State Park.

For registration information or more details about the BRAT, please call (931) 686-BIKE or visit www.tnstateparks.com/BRAT.



Just Another Day at Norris Dam State Park



Campers loved the opportunity to photograph the buffalo and be a part of a first for Norris Dam State Park.

On Tuesday morning, April 18 a park neighbor notified rangers at Norris Dam State Park that his seven buffalo had escaped their pen, and he believed they were headed to the park. The first sighting of the buffalo came around 5:00 p.m. as Ranger Mike Scott was registering campers. He looked up from writing a receipt to see the buffalo walking out of the woods, directly in front of his truck. The visiting camper responded, "Oh, you have buffalo at the park."

An attempt by the owner to herd the animals out of the park went as far as the main road at which time they bolted back onto park property for another night out. They obviously like the park environment. The buffalo were found on a walkabout at the park entrance the next morning. From there they were led back home with an invitation to visit any time.

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